

Upperclassmen move-in: Expectations vs. reality



Grace Worwa
Opinion Columnist

I could've sworn the air was fizzing as I drove up College Avenue on move-in day, bubbling over with a months-old accumulation of nerves and anticipation. Like many Gusties, I'd been eyeing this day for weeks, wondering when and if it would ever arrive. Now that it has come and gone, I have to say it was not what I was expecting from a COVID-era move-in.

Some of my basic expectations were met of course, including the staggered move-in times, the mask requirement and the 2-person limit on who you could bring to campus. The staggered appointment system in particular made for a quiet, low-key, socially distanced move-in experience, especially because I'd arrived during the very last move-in slot on the very last day.

However, these measures meet only the most basic level of COVID-19 precarecaution — I must confess that my cautious

summer-self was imagining much heavier health and safety measures. To begin with, given that colleges and universities have become the new COVID-19 hotspots, I was surprised to be moving in at all. Don't get me wrong, I am absolutely thrilled to be back on campus with friends and feeling like a Gustie again, but being back on campus

"The staggered appointment system in particular made for a quiet, low-key, socially distanced move-in... However, these measures meet only the most basic level of COVID-19 precautions."

puts many students at higher risk than if they had remained at home.

As of Sept. 25, the New York Times reports that more than 1,600 U.S. colleges and universities, including every four-year public institution and every private college that competes in NCAA sports, have had a combined total of at least 130,000 cases since the start of the pandemic. Gustavus is currently at nine, but that doesn't make us immune. Minnesota State University Mankato, our neighbor



Three students sit and chat while practicing proper mask-wearing and social distancing etiquette. Gracie Jackson

just 20 minutes south, has 129 cases right now.

Not only do both local and national statistics show the risk of reopening campus, but the high possibility of an outbreak presents quite a pickle. After all, if a large proportion of the student body is exposed and pushed into quarantine, where will they go? They can't stay in their dorms and risk exposing even more people, and frankly the idea of being locked in a dorm room 24/7 for two weeks isn't overly appealing. So, many students will want to go home, but that would endanger the communities and families that

they are going home to. In short, even though the majority of Minnesota private colleges have reopened to some extent, the fact that Gustavus move-in day came at all was unexpected, given the risk involved and the dilemma of what to do in the case of a mass outbreak.

Another surprising aspect about move-in day was the lack of mandatory testing, or even screening, prior to arrival. Given that numerous small, private Minnesota schools like Carleton, St. Olaf and Macalester are requiring two rounds of testing upon arrival (one the day of, and one around two weeks in), I expected something similar here. Even universities like the University of Minnesota and St. Cloud State, who have a larger student/staff population and a greater proportion of students living off-campus, have implemented mandatory self-screenings that must be submitted and approved before arrival to campus.

GAC's version of this is a recommended two-week self-quarantine before arrival as well as daily self-screenings completed via the honor code once on campus. This strikes me as rather precarious. After all, students who have jobs at home are unlikely to self-quarantine, and even those who don't would not be psyched about self-isolating a week before they even know whether they are returning to campus at all.

Although Gustavus is not alone among private Minnesota colleges in its use of these measures, I expected move-in day to be accompanied by a round of testing in order to better track and identify the COVID-19 cases on-campus (if any), especially the asymptomatic ones.

The last unexpected aspect of move-in day was the lack of college presence at the dorm. I expected there to be ROAR members, CFs, residential life staff/workers, someone to enforce the mask and social distancing requirements during the move-in

process. This expectation may come in part from my own pre-COVID move-in experiences, when the typical practice was to check-in to your dorm at a table at the front entrance and receive guidance and assistance; regardless, moving in can be a frustrating and laborious process.

Carting crates and boxes and refrigerators up and down the stairs is not easy, and under such circumstances, the hassle of social distancing and mask wearing might appear more of a disposable nuisance than a necessity. For this reason, I expected there to be some type of college presence at each dorm to hold people accountable.

Overall, the COVID-19 measures at move-in day were less comprehensive than I was expecting. Health and safety measures were implemented at the basic level, and their following was pretty much left to the discretion of students and their helpers.

All that said, Gusties were definitely up to the task. My COVID-19 move-in experience was quick and efficient with minimal safety scares. The self-accountability of my fellow students in the way everyone followed the guidelines gave me a sense of security and hope that perhaps the Gustavus community can tackle this semester with only a few bumps and bruises along the way.

Despite the extra challenges this year, I am glad to be back. The only thing left to do now is watch the case count within the next two weeks with fingers crossed because, by then, we will know the true effect of the move-in policy.

The Good, the Bad, and the Meh



The trees are changing color.



You accidentally wore your mask in the shower again.



Your room constantly smells like Caf food.

The Caf during COVID-19: Should we be concerned?



Tori Smith
Opinion Columnist

The Evelyn Young Dining Hall (or, as Gusties prefer to it, the Caf) has always been the most prominent spot on campus for student life. It's where students eat, study and socialize with friends.

There's something ominous about the way the Caf sucks you in. There have been many times when I've gone to breakfast with a friend and ended up staying until dinner. Time doesn't seem to exist inside that room.

But how has the Caf changed since the pandemic? No more squeezing eight to ten people to a table and definitely no more days spent sitting in those surprisingly comfortable wooden chairs. There's now a two-people-to-a-table minimum, arrows to limit traffic and what once

was the self-serve salad bar now carries pre-packaged salad, toppings and fruit cups.

Despite all of these beneficial changes, many Gusties are wondering if it's enough.

On Sept. 22, Gustavus held a "Return to Campus" student and family forum in anticipation of the students' return to campus. There, senior Gustavus leaders assured the community that the dining hall's new system was working thus far, and was expected to continue working as the rest of the student population returned. The Courtyard Café, the Steamery and the new Firepit Grill were credited with helping keep the Marketplace traffic-free.

Although I acknowledge the Caf has made a lot of good changes in keeping students socially distanced (free to-go containers being one of them) and have provided students with other means of obtaining food, I don't think the Marketplace has fully lived up to the expectations

"For most of the day, the Caf is quite open and easy to walk around without fear of exposure. Dinner rush, however, is another story."

mentioned in the forum.

For most of the day, the Caf

is quite open and easy to walk around without fear of exposure. Dinner rush, however, is another story.

Today, I grabbed food with a friend to eat outside in the courtyard at around 5:40 p.m.

I immediately noticed how difficult it was to navigate the Marketplace while maintaining a distance of six feet from the other hungry students surrounding me. The line to check out was past the salad bar and students were trying to keep their distance the best they could.

"The line to check out was past the salad bar and students were trying to keep their distance the best they could."

Students' attempts to remain socially distant were mostly unsuccessful as there were just too many students packed into the confined area at once.

"[Dining hall staff] are supposed to limit how many people go [into the Marketplace] at one time," Junior Marketplace Student Leader Allsion Schulte said.

Since my return to campus, I have not seen this happen. Regulating the traffic within the Marketplace could potentially fix the problem, however, the wait-time for students to receive food could be another cause for

"Students' attempts to remain socially distant were mostly unsuccessful as there were just too many students packed into the confined area at once."

concern.

So far, the dinner rush has been the only issue I've come across. For how difficult COVID-19 has made everything, I'd say that overall the situation is, for the most part, under control.

However, I can't imagine that will remain true in the coming months. As the weather gets colder, fewer and fewer people will be willing to eat outside or even carry their food back to their dorms. I know that on cold and windy days it's much easier to eat in the Caf, rather than carry my food all the way back to my dorm across campus.

"As the weather gets colder, fewer and fewer people will be willing to eat outside or even carry their food back to their dorms."

How will the dining hall re-

spond to these changes? Can we expect more regulation of traffic within the Marketplace? If so, how will students respond?

It is my hope that the school will address these concerns because, like I said, the Caf is a prominent spot on campus for student life. It's a high traffic area which means we must all pay close attention to what is working and what is not.

From what I've seen so far, I don't believe the Marketplace during the dinner rush is working. I want to be able to safely grab food from the Caf at any time of day, so I hope this issue can be addressed quickly.



Students peruse the Marketplace as they do their best to follow social distancing guidelines.

Gusties Will Shine: So let our candles shine, too



Ben Wick
Assistant Editor-in-Chief

Gusties, it's beginning to look a lot like fall here on the Hill. Although it may be trite to say, fall is absolutely my favorite season. It's basically spring, but less wet. I cannot wait to step on some leaves on the sidewalk and hear that oh-so-satisfying CRONCH, for the mosquitoes to die from the cold, to traverse campus with an iced coffee from Dunkin' Donuts freezing off my hand.

The best part of fall, though, is when you get to snuggle up, safe in your room from the cold and the wind, swaddled in a sweater and a blanket, procrastinating God-knows-what on Youtube, with a candle to provide me with the best possible fall scents.

And then, I am rudely shaken from my daydream with a realization: Candles are illegal on campus. Gusties can't even

possess candles. Candles, in the eyes of the administration, are contraband. But does anyone really care besides your CF? I think not.

The clause regarding candles in the Residential Life Housing Contract, which details regulations for all Gustavus-owned housing reads as follows, "Any item with a wick or flame or consuming flammable material (including but not limited to candles, incense, oil lamps, potpourri simmer pots, and gas or Sterno cans) are NOT allowed in residence hall rooms or College-owned apartments or houses."

Along with this ban on all things candle-related, students who are found to be in possession of one of the aforementioned items are subject to a fine per each item and confiscation.

It's the confiscation for me—I am going to spend a good \$24.50 on a nice, three-wick Dutch Apple Waffle Bath & Bodyworks candle, then my CF is gonna have to pry it from my cold, dead hands to remove it from my apartment. Not that I own any candles.

Sure, my purely-theoretical secret candle stash may or may not be a fire hazard. But so are the multiple extension cords you have fully occupied or your six connected strands of string lights. You probably even have a toaster hidden somewhere in your room just waiting to burn down Uhler.

You might ask me, "Why don't you just use a diffuser



Candles in an undisclosed location.

Submitted

instead?" And I would reply, "Talk to the hand."

Essential oil diffusers are awful. They might have fun, novelty, light-changing capabilities, but do they flicker? No. Do they provide warmth? Nope. Do they give me headaches? Yeah, usually. Plus, they can be harmful to any Emotional Support Animals (ESAs) you might have in your space on campus. Diffusers may cause unsteadiness, changes in mood or depression and, if ingested, can even cause vomiting or diarrhea.

Besides, don't even try and

tell me that you haven't snuck a candle or two into the dorms during your time on campus. The allure of the candle is strong and difficult to resist. Just give in. Grab a lighter and set the wick on your Marshmallow Fireside candle ablaze.

Candle usage has been suppressed for far too long on this campus. My plea to you, Gustavus Adolphus, is to let us celebrate the fall and all of its majesty. We've got seasonal depression on top of pandemic isolation depression this year, so spare us the fine and let me

waft my Milk & Honey candle around my house. (Well, at least upperclassmen. First-years might just burn down Co-Ed if they were allowed to have candles.) Do it for the aesthetic. Let both Gusties and their dearly beloved candles shine, and make both your life and this fall count.

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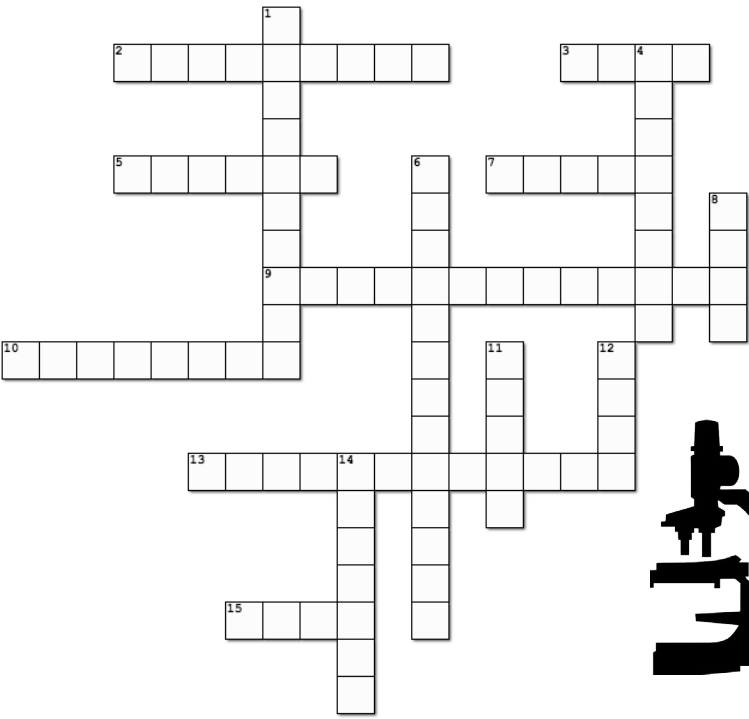
Cancer in the Age of Biotechnology

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Crossword

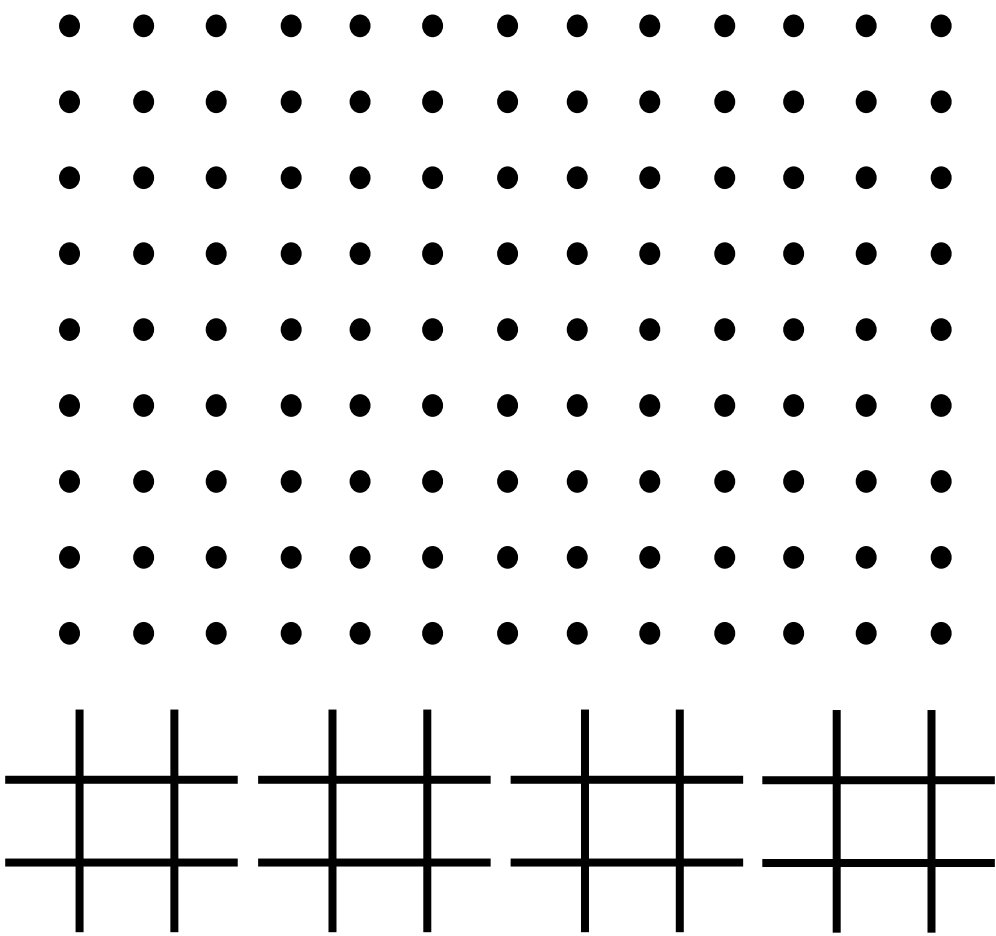
Nobel Conference



- Across
2. High doses of this will give you cancer, not super powers.
3. Breast cancer is more common in which breast?
5. The first theme Conference.
7. Which ancient civilization was the first to describe cancer?
9. The biotechnology element of this conference will make this 2020 ending more likely (two words).
10. What did Alfred Nobel invent?
13. This breed of subterranean African mammal is immune to cancer (three words).
15. The Norwegian city where Nobel Prizes are awarded.
- Down
1. The physicist who discovered radiation, won a Nobel Prize for it, and promptly died of it (two words).
4. This is Nobel Conference number ____ (two words).
6. A second theme of the Conference.
8. Theater and dance professor Michele Rusinko is doing this in a three part series for the conference, for some reason.
11. Because the Conference is virtual this year, it will be harder not to do this during presentations.
12. This editor thinks that Cancer is the ____ Zodiac.
14. You get two of these if you decide not to go to any presentations (two words).

Dots & Boxes

Take turns drawing one line. If that line completes a square, write your initial in the box and draw another line. Continue until all dots have been connected. The player with the most boxes wins!



“The Simple Things” by Bryanna Filip



Crossword Answers: Across: 2. radiation, 3. left, 5. cancer, 7. Egypt, 9. robot uprising, 10. dynamite, 13. naked mole rat, 15. Oslo. Down: 1. Marie Curie, 4. fifty-six, 6. biotechnology, 8. yoga, 11. sleep, 12. best, 14. days off.

Lund Center Open to Students

Lund Center open to students, but with new rules.

Jack Wiessenberger
Staff Writer

Much has changed on the Gustavus campus since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The way students live and interact with their environment has been altered significantly. One area of campus that has seen dramatic change is the Lund Center. Due to the inherent risks that come from individuals exercising in close proximity, changes needed to be made. The plans to keep students safe in Lund have been in the works for months.

"The Athletic department COVID-19 action team started meeting in June, so these updates have been in the works since this summer. The hardest part about making these plans has been that we are learning more about COVID-19 every week and procedures and best practices need to be updated on a consistent basis to stay current with the new information," Assistant Athletic Director Kari Eckheart said.

The guidelines set in Lund are fluid, so they can quickly be adapted to any new information released by organizations such as the Center for Disease Control (CDC) or Minnesota Department of Health (MDH). These changes are noticeable even before entering the building.

"I felt a little confused by the changes [at first]. The entrance was set up just like in the winter time, with one side of doors designated as the entrance and the other as the exit. The changes were surprising at first, but they were expected. I would have been concerned if there weren't any changes made," Junior Christopher Ortiz said.

The alterations made are taking some students by surprise, but the reasons behind the changes are generally understood. The Athletic department has been working to make all changes effective in protecting the health of students and the Gustavus com-



New rules in place keep students safe

Gracie Jackson

munity as a whole.

"One of the biggest changes for Lund Center is that students need to sign up to work out in specific areas due to the limited capacity in spaces and to maintain social distancing guidelines. Students also need to work out in a mask unless they are swimming laps in the pool or on the cardio equipment," Eckheart said.

There are also protocols that must happen to get into the building itself.

"When entering Lund Center, students are also asked to take their temperature with the thermal scan and then check in with the information desk," Eckheart said.

These guidelines were put

in place with the goal of maximizing safety while keeping Lund as accessible as possible to students. However, accessibility has become a topic of discussion for some students.

"Overall, I do not think that it has been difficult to have access to Lund. It has been open for the times that I have needed it, whether that be for pod workouts, using the treadmill on my own time, or going to the athletic training room. The one problem I have had with Lund facilities is the weight room. The certain time slots available do not correlate well with my schedule, so finding time to lift on my own has been difficult. Other than that, I believe Lund has been avail-

able for whatever I need it for," Junior Hockey player Gabby Slykas said.

The hours for Lund facilities have been changed since last year. The weight room is now only open from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on weekdays. Those looking to lift can sign up for a one-hour time slot either by visiting the information desk in Lund or by calling ahead. The same reservation system can be used for cardio machines and the pool, which are available from 8 a.m.-8 p.m. and 2 p.m.-6 p.m. respectively.

"The reservation system has its positives and negatives. It's nice because it secures a spot for you in the pool, but I definitely miss just dropping in to

get a quick swim in if my schedule was crazy. Things are definitely a lot more strict around the pool, especially now that team practices have started. I see a lot less of my team now—we can only have two people to a lane, one at each side. Additionally, our masks must be worn up until we get into the water and put back on right after we're done. Everything is set up to allow social distancing," Junior Swimmer Lillie Orloff said.

Sports that can practice outside are being encouraged to do so, but sports such as swimming and hockey require their indoor spaces to train. The COVID-19 guidelines have made these spaces less accessible to these teams.

"Access to the ice rink has been limited due to the new rules. Just like the weight room, if we want to use the ice on our own time, we must call the front desk and sign up. The women's hockey team has had odd times for practices because we must make sure to stay separated in our pods. We also have to share ice time with the men's team. All of this has made it difficult to find decent ice time," Slykas said.

The Athletic department has made student health a priority by putting these guidelines in place. However, the changes to Lund Center will continue to take some getting used to. As the pandemic progresses, more changes may be made to keep Lund an accessible and safe place.



Lund lies empty with limited occupancy

Gracie Jackson



Safety is the first priority for Lund goes

Gracie Jackson

The Desire to Play

Gustie football player petitions for fall season.

John Campisi
Staff Writer

Since March, it seems as if the entire country has revolved around the Coronavirus. This pandemic has affected everyone and everything, including Gustavus athletics. MIAC play has been suspended this fall for all sports. This decision canceled the seasons for hundreds of Gustie athletes. Gustie athletes are still able to practice, but many have grown weary of watching Division 1 sports and the Minnesota High School League competing this fall. Senior Football player Austin Fest wants to enact change in the MIAC in lieu of this decision.

Recently, Fest started a petition trying to convince the MIAC to open up fall sports this year, which already has 815 signatures. Fest explains that “other players in the MIAC seem to share the same desire to play, but some do not think that this is a real possibility and thus the petition has slowed down significantly.”

“[We] want to bring back our season—in a similar and SAFE fashion,” Fest said, referring to the guidelines the Minnesota High School League has used.

His petition was inspired by the loss of the football season, but has spread to all fall and winter sports. With Division programs and MSHSL sports continuing athletics this fall, the MIAC has not yet followed suit. The MIAC has reconciled this problem by moving the fall season to the spring, but Fest has concerns.

“For seniors, in particular, this season is a culmination of their athletic careers and achievements. There is no certainty that there will be a spring season, and it is not feasible for many players to stick around for next fall,” Fest said.

This concern has been raised by many. Even though athletes are given another year of eligibility, there are athletes



A petition has been made to bring back a chance to play football

Cadence Paramore

that cannot make that sacrifice and come back for another semester.

“The current backing of the petition demonstrates support [for the upcoming sports season,] but understandably is not completely representative of the MIAC’s stakeholders. I would like to see the MIAC recognize the significance of losing this fall season[...] and formulate a plan this fall for how athletics can successfully return this winter and spring.”

Fest is hopeful his petition can bridge the gap of communication between the MIAC and their athletes. MIAC athletes want to see a plan in ac-

tion that will set up a way that athletics can proceed, and these seniors can finish out their final year.

“We want to play. We want to be safe. I believe both of those things are possible” —Austin Fest

“We want to play. We want to be safe. I believe both of those things are possible,” Fest said.

Safety has seemingly been on everyone’s mind as they came back to St. Peter this September. How can Gusties be safe, and at the same time, continue to be involved in sports and other activities? The answer to this predicament will be complex and requires effort on the part of everyone involved.

The football team has been adapting to the risks of coronavirus and are making accommodations and increasing safety in order to play. This has been seen so far with athletes already at Gustavus participat-



Cadence Paramore

Players must maintain proper COVID-19 guidelines

ing in their sports with masks on, doing daily temperature screenings, and maintaining social distancing while on the field.

“We are already practicing and completing daily COVID screenings, and have already agreed that we will take all necessary safety precautions to play this season.”

With the abrupt ending of spring sports and spring semester, there has been a much longer off season than usual.

With everyone’s help and obedience to safety guidelines, the hope for seasons this year becomes more likely everyday there are successful practices and the Coronavirus does not spread.



Athletes lament the loss of their normal season

Cadence Paramore

Senior Q&A

Senior student athletes reflect on final season.

Eamonn McCullough
Staff Writer

As students return to campus and a myriad of sports return to practice this week, Lund Center is attracting foot traffic like it hasn't seen since March. Students entering Lund will see a few major changes related to the COVID-19 pandemic, including face/thermal scanners, plexiglass protection around the info desk and social distancing reminders stickered to the floor. Despite these changes, senior Gustie athletes continue to look forward to their final seasons competing for the black and gold. As practices get underway, several student-athletes from the senior class reflected on their favorite memories at Gustavus so far, and laid out expectations for the coming season, however different it may look.

One of the teams highlighted this week is Swimming & Diving, who officially started practicing on Sept. 28th. Senior captains Andres Losinski and Thomas Fitzloff weighed in on their excitement for the season and the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Q: MIAC athletics will not compete until after January 1st. What do you think will be the weirdest part about a fall

with only intrasquad competition?

AL: "So we typically do a lot of team bonding stuff surrounding meets...fun activities during the week leading up to facing St. Olaf, hanging out during team travel meets like Grinnell...It'll be a little weird without that, but we're planning on time trials on the weekend. It's all just preparation work at this point"

"So we typically do a lot of team bonding stuff surrounding meets...fun activities during the week leading up to facing St. Olaf, hanging out during team travel meets like Grinnell...It'll be a little weird without that"—Andres Losinski

Q: "Have your teammates and coaches done a good job of

adjusting to the new COVID-19 regulations?"

AL: "Jon's been talking to us captains a lot about modifying the practice schedules so that they fit around our class schedule, and Jon has been very good about updating the team on any changes at the NCAA level. It's kind of a hard situation having only pods, [but] I'm enjoying it so far, it's kind of a learning curve, but hopefully this will help us in the future."

Q: What are some of the ways those teammates just returning to campus have been able to get to know the first year athletes who have been here since August?

TF: "Connecting at practices has been a great way for a lot of returners to meet new athletes and get to know them better. Looking forward to more opportunities to gather as a whole team!"

The Men's Swimming & Diving team, of which Andres is a part of, are two-year MIAC defending conference champions, fresh off the highest-scoring win in MIAC history where they beat The University of St. Thomas 946-739.

The Gustavus Women's Tennis team is also looking forward

to a fall of training and team bonding, coming back after what looked to be a promising spring season was cut short, like all NCAA spring sports, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Although not currently on campus, Senior Hannah Borgh offered her input on her favorite experiences as a Gustie athlete so far and the thrill that seeing her teammates again promises.

Q: What is your fondest memory as a Gustavus athlete so far? How do you think the team atmosphere contributed to this experience?

HB: "One of my favorite memories of Gustavus Tennis is when we had a meet in my hometown. Being from Iowa, we don't really play a lot of teams outside of the MIAC or Minnesota, so it meant a lot to be able to invite my hometown friends and family. Competing with my new Gustavus Tennis family at the same place where I learned to play tennis was such a cool experience that brought everything full-circle for me. My parents also invited the team over for dinner after our huge win over Whitewater, one of our rivals, and it was really special to be able to have my teammates come to my house, especially for being someone that lives so far away."

Q: What are you most excited for this season?

HB: "I'm most excited to be with the team and all working hard together to become better tennis players, better athletes and closer friends. One of the best things about Gustavus Tennis is not just the athletics aspect, but it comes from being such a close group of friends that works really hard for make each other and the team better."

Although competition will look different for their senior year, the senior Gustie student-athletes are finding ways to stay positive, shine and ROAR.



Seniors reflect on their last season while dealing with the ills of the pandemic

Submitted